

## **Norfolk Reentry Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 20, 2015**

**Indian Creek Correctional Center**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **Welcome:**

Asst. Warden Ms. Joanne Harris extended greetings to members and guests present on behalf of the Indian Creek Correctional Center.

### **Planning Committee:**

Mike Paris gave an update on the upcoming events Employment & Training Town Hall Meeting 5/19/15, Housing & Wellness Town Hall Meeting at the Union Mission (Last week in August), and the Equal Opportunity Job Fair.

### **Presentation:**

Deran Smith gave an overview of the Career Readiness Certificate. Career Readiness Test (Not Mandatory). It is a 3 part test. Offenders are screened at the Bronze, Silver & Gold level education & employment. The benefit is a return on investment and the certificate is portable.

### **Reentry Discussion:**

Warden Keeling gave an overview of Indian Creek Therapeutic Community which included Creative Writing Class, DOC Counseling, classes ran by the residents, vocational training, Thinking For A Change and Sr. CADRE Leadership. Mr. Booker, Sr. Cadre gave us an overview of his journey in life to prison (from Greenville to Indian Creek). His reflection on programs and experiences while incarcerated included the thought "it really changes the way you think, walk and treat others." He thanked the staff at Indian Creek and answered questions about the program. Other members of the CADRE gave information about their experiences in CADRE.

### **Program Updates:**

- **DHS Programs:** Madonna Flores gave an update on programs offered through NDHS. SNAPET program provides supportive services and training for the returning citizens. Currently, some participants are enrolled into the TCC Culinary Arts Job Skills Training Program. Mentors are still needed the next mentor training will be held tentatively in June. She also discussed how a local civic league (East Ocean View) has a mentoring program, which is hopefully something that more churches and civil leagues will be open to getting involved with. A reminder about Peer Support groups was given (at Workforce Development Center on Tuesdays {(Women 5-6 p.m. & Co-ed 6-7 p.m)} all returning citizens are welcomed to attend.

### **Institutional Updates:**

- **Greenville** - Tamika Woodley reported that the next Cognitive Graduation is 5/8/15. Principal, Bryan Phillips gave an update about computerized GED testing. They use the Hot Set/McGraw Hill.
- **Deerfield** - Jim Mayo reminded us we need to take care of the offender community.
- **Nottaway** - Dawn Paige discussed the need to take back information for resources offered. They had a seminar for veterans on 3/19/15. Their next Resource Fairs are 5/8/15 & 5/28/15.

- **St. Brides** - Christopher Walton gave an update about their programs; Revitalization Training, T4C and DMV Seminars. The next cognitive community commencement ceremony is 4/24/15.
- **Sussex I & II** – Principal, Timothy Donley gave an update on the computerized GED testing.
- **Indian Creek** - Linda Hughes gave an update on services provided for success which include Parenting Classes, Interactive CADRE Training, Anger Management classes & Domestic Violence classes. The next Resource Fair is 6/5/15.
- **Norfolk Public Schools**- Gave an update on services provide which include 18-22 year olds can receive a standardized Norfolk Public Schools High School Diploma vs. a GED, Transformational Coaching Advisory Committee and Community Partners.

#### **P & P:**

- **Reentry Docket**-Marla Newby gave an update on the Reentry Docket. The Reentry Docket started in 2011 to decrease recidivism. Currently have 40 participants. Recently, had another graduation (3/11/15), in which he was the 12th participant to graduate from program. The Reentry Docket is every Wednesday @ 2 p.m.

#### **Veterans:**

- Mackenzie Shaw gave an update about Wounded Warrior Program which will have a name change October 2015. Peninsula Job Fair on 3/26/15. Newport News Reentry Council meeting on 4/16/15 @ 10:30 a.m. On 6/14/15 Stratford University Blood Drive.

#### **Other:**

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**-Terri Neveu gave an update about their services. Pamphlets were available
- **Union Mission** - Mike Marshall gave a history about Union Mission. They offer shelter for men, women, and families. They have various programs e.g. discipleship program, work program, and employment strategy. In Mid-June will be opening a new 300 bed men shelter, 50 women bed shelter and up to 4 families shelter. Single Room occupancy.
- **OPP Inc.**-Cynthia Rios-Burger gave an update about services provided by OPP Inc. They are a One Stop Work Training that provide monies for adults up to \$5,000 from July 1-June 30. Services include transportation, computer training, and Career Readiness Certification.
- **Whitestone Family Center** - Claudia Williams gave an update on services provided which include Domestic Violence Training, Recovery Addiction Provided, and Family Preservation. They have two locations (Chesapeake & Norfolk).
- **Healing Place** - Ruth Hill gave information about services provided by the Healing Place. They have two events 5/6/15 and 7/15/15. For more information contact her [www.thehealingplace@hr.org](mailto:www.thehealingplace@hr.org)

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#### **Workgroups:**

- **Employment**-Mike Paris stated they are having an Employment & Training Resource Fair on 5/19/15 @ WDC 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

- Faith Based and Community Initiatives- Madonna Flores stated they are trying to seek members to work on this committee. Interested members should contact her [madonna.flores@norfolk.gov](mailto:madonna.flores@norfolk.gov).

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 5/15/15 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Sheila London